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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation

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THE FOOD STAMP PLAN

Why it is being tried out and how it will work
in Dayton, beginning June 1.

A new way of distributing surplus foods is being tried out in Dayton. Instead of giving surplus commodities to States, counties, and cities which in the past have distributed them to people receiving public aid, the Federal Government will give food order stamps to these people directly. The stamps, which will be colored blue, can be taken to grocery stores, where they can be used to obtain surplus foods as additions to the present family food supplies.

Everyone currently receiving surplus commodities will now be eligible to participate in the surplus commodity food stamp plan. In addition, Dayton people working on WPA jobs, and all other persons receiving or certified for any form of public aid, can get the stamps if they want them.

The food stamp plan is being carried out by the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with city, county, and State welfare agencies and the grocers of Dayton. The idea is to make use of some of the farm products of which there has been a surplus because people did not have the money to buy them. Many families have been going without enough of the foods that are needed to keep children and grown-up people healthy, at the very same time that farmers had more of these foods than housewives could buy.

The main idea of the food stamp plan is the same as the idea of the commodity distribution that people in Dayton are familiar with -- to use part of the farm surplus to give city families a chance to have better balanced diets. However, the stamp plan is different from the old distribution plan as it operated at St. Clair Street Depot.

In the future, there will not be any surplus commodity depots for Dayton people. The Department of Agriculture will name the surplus food products. People using the stamps can go right to grocery stores that are cooperating in the program and use the surplus food order stamps to get any of these surplus commodities that they want. People using the stamps will have a wider variety of surplus commodities to choose from than they had at the distribution depot.

Two methods of distributing the surplus food order stamps will be used in Dayton. One group, including those who are at work on WPA projects and those who are receiving, or certified as eligible to receive, public assistance such as old age assistance, aid to dependent children, and aid to the blind, will be eligible to get the free blue surplus stamps if they buy orange colored food order stamps with part of their WPA or assistance payments. These orange colored stamps, which will be good for the purchase of any food usually sold in a grocery store, are to be bought at the rate of approximately \$1 a week per person for each member of the family. For each two-week pay period, therefore, the eligible person would have to purchase orange colored stamps at the rate of \$2 per member of his family. Their use is to insure that regular food purchases are kept up, so that food

secured with the blue surplus stamps will be in addition to and not in place of these regular purchases. One blue surplus stamp will be given free with each two orange stamps bought. Each stamp, whether blue or orange, will be good for 25 cents worth of food. For each \$1 worth of orange stamps bought, the family will receive 50 cents worth of free blue stamps. For example, a family which buys \$8 worth of orange stamps will get \$4 worth of blue surplus stamps without extra cost.

Under the other method of distributing the surplus stamps in Dayton, a group made up of those who are now receiving grocery orders as part of direct public assistance will be eligible to receive the free blue surplus stamps without having to buy orange colored stamps. The grocery orders insure continuance of regular food purchases by this group.

Details of how to get the food stamps and how to use them are given in the following questions and answers:

1. Q. What kind of stamps will be issued?

A. Blue stamps and orange stamps. The blue stamps will not cost anything. They can be used only for obtaining surplus food products. Each one will be good for 25 cents worth of those foods. The orange stamps will cost 25 cents each, and each one will be good for any food product, whether it is surplus food or not.

2. Q. What foods are surplus?

A. The products which the Secretary of Agriculture has declared to be surplus and which are listed in the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation Bulletin as food products for which blue surplus food order stamps may be used are as follows: Butter, shell eggs, dry edible beans, dried prunes, oranges, fresh grapefruit, wheat flour and whole wheat (graham) flour, and corn meal. Fresh vegetables might be added as they come into surplus later during the season. For the convenience of those purchasing surplus foods these bulletins will be posted in all grocery stores participating in the plan.



3. Q. Can the list of surplus foods be changed?

A. Yes. The list may be changed from time to time. If the surplus of a product is used up, that product will be taken off the list. If the surplus of some other product piles up, that product will be added to the list. Official lists of surplus commodities that can be bought with blue stamps will be sent to grocery stores to be posted there. Any change in the list will be given wide publicity.

4. Q. Will orange stamps be good for anything except food?

A. Yes. Orange stamps can be used to get household articles usually bought in grocery stores, such as starch and soap. However, orange stamps cannot be used to get beer, wine, liquor or any kind of tobacco, or food usually eaten at stores.

HOW TO GET THE STAMPS

5. Q. Who is eligible to receive food stamps?

A. Any person certified as eligible for public assistance or who is at work on a WPA project, or any person receiving public assistance under the social security program or direct assistance from State, county, or city agencies such as general or home relief, old age assistance, aid to dependent children, and aid to the blind.

6. Q. Can persons certified as eligible for public assistance, but not actually receiving it, obtain stamps?

A. Yes, they can buy the orange stamps on the same basis as those who are receiving general relief or public aid under the social security program or other forms of public assistance.

7. Q. Can blue stamps be obtained separately?

A. Yes - But only by one group in Dayton. Those families at present receiving public assistance part of which is in the form of grocery orders will be given blue stamps to provide for additional purchases of surplus foods. The grocery orders will provide for regular food purchases.

8. Q. How many blue stamps can persons receiving grocery orders get per week and where can they obtain them?

A. The value of the blue stamps to be given this group will be 50 cents per week for each member of the eligible family. They will be given to eligible persons who apply for stamps, in addition to their grocery orders.

9. Q. What about those persons who are not eligible to receive grocery orders? How will they obtain the stamps?

A. All other persons in Dayton who are employed on WPA projects or who receive public assistance under the social security program, such as old age assistance, aid to the blind, or aid to dependent children, must purchase the orange colored stamps in order to receive the free blue surplus stamps.

10. Q. Where will the stamps be on sale?

A. Books of stamps will be on sale at the Barrar Building, first floor, 5th and Stone Streets.

11. Q. When will the stamps be on sale for the different eligible groups?

A. Beginning June 1, 1939, stamps will be on sale every week-day from 8:30 a.m., to 4:00 p.m., except Saturday when the office will close at 12:00 noon. However, special provisions will be made immediately after each WPA pay period for the handling of the sale of stamps to the WPA group.

12. Q. What about those receiving public assistance and not employed on WPA projects?

A. The other people receiving public assistance, including old age assistance, aid to dependent children, and aid to the blind, will receive the same special consideration immediately following receipt of their payments.

13. Q. When will those receiving grocery orders as part of their direct relief get their surplus food blue stamps?

A. Upon receipt of a grocery order, direct relief clients can, if they so desire, get free surplus food stamps at the Barrar Building, 5th and Stone Streets. The clients should take their grocery orders to the section designated "FOR BLUE STAMPS ONLY". They must first sign a request for the stamps, and then will immediately be given free blue stamps at the rate of 50 cents a week for each member of the family.

14. Q. Will all stamp books contain the same number of stamps?

A. No. Books for persons buying orange stamps, with which will be included blue stamps to half the orange stamp value, will be issued in the following five different sizes to take care of family groups of different size:

- \$2 worth of orange stamps and \$1 worth of blue stamps
- \$4 worth of orange stamps and \$2 worth of blue stamps
- \$6 worth of orange stamps and \$3 worth of blue stamps
- \$8 worth of orange stamps and \$4 worth of blue stamps
- \$10 worth of orange stamps and \$5 worth of blue stamps

The books of blue-stamps-only, which can be secured by those in the group receiving grocery orders, will be issued in four different sizes: \$2, \$3, \$4, and \$5.

15. Q. How many stamps can one person buy at one time?

A. At least enough to supply \$1 worth of orange stamps a week for each member of his family. If a man has a wife and two children, he may buy \$4 worth of orange stamps for each week between the days on which he gets his WPA wages or relief payment. If he is paid twice a month, he may buy \$8 worth of orange stamps for each pay period. Such a man buying \$8 worth of orange stamps would get \$4 worth of blue stamps good for surplus food.

16. Q. Can a person buy more than \$1 worth of orange stamps a week for each person in his family?

A. Yes. If he wants to he can buy orange stamps at the rate of about \$1.50 a week for each member of his family.

17. Q. After his first purchase, must an eligible person buy orange stamps regularly if he wishes to continue to buy stamps and take part in the plan at all?

A. Yes. A person who has started with the plan and bought orange stamps once must buy orange stamps regularly, for each relief payment period, if he wants to continue with the plan and buy orange stamps again at any time. For example, if he buys orange stamps for the first half-month pay period, he must also buy them for the second-half month pay period in order to be eligible for future purchases.

18. Q. Will identification be necessary in order to buy orange colored stamps?

A. Yes, it will be necessary for each eligible person to bring the special identification card which will be given him by his certifying agency before June 1.

19. Q. If, rather than use his stamps, an eligible person needs to get all or a part of his money back on the orange colored stamps he has purchased, may he do so?

A. Yes, if because of some emergency he needs to, he can get his money back on the orange stamps he has not used, provided the person to whom the stamps are issued returns them together with blue stamps in the same ratio of blue and orange in which they were received. However, no stamps which are detached from the book will be redeemed.

HOW TO USE THE STAMPS

20. Q. What stores will accept stamps in return for food?

A. All grocery stores that wish to take part in the plan.

21. Q. Can the stamps be used in grocery stores outside the city limits?

A. No, not during the first few months while the plan is being tried out.

22. Q. Can stamp books be traded or sold?

A. No. They can be used only for food and only by the families to whom they are issued. Any holder of stamps or grocer who misuses them will be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine and imprisonment.

23. Q. Can stamps be used to pay a bill or an account already owing to a grocery store?

A. No. Stamps cannot be used to pay old bills or accounts.

24. Q. Will stores accept stamps that have been taken out of books?

A. No. The stamps must be taken out of the books at the time they are used in making purchases.

25. Q. Can anyone besides the person to whom the stamps are issued use them in grocery stores?

A. Yes, either the person to whom they are issued or a member of his family may bring the book to the grocery store and use the stamps for food. If the grocer does not know the person who brings in the book he can require that person to identify himself.

26. Q. Must persons save the books after all the blue and orange stamps are used?

A. Yes, because the empty covers must be turned in before new books can be bought. This will be true of all book covers except those bought for the last pay period. In other words, an eligible person need not turn in the covers of books bought during the pay period immediately before that of the present purchase, for all stamps from these books may not have been used at that time. Covers of all books bought at an earlier date than the pay period just before the current purchase must, however, be turned in before new books can be bought again.

27. Q. Must those who receive books of blue-stamps-only also save the books after the stamps are used?

A. Yes. They must turn in their empty book covers before new books can be issued, on the same basis as that explained in Question 26 above for those who buy orange stamps.

28. Q. Can an eligible person buy additional stamps if he loses the cover or the book that was issued to him previously?

A. Yes. A person who loses a book or cover will be eligible to buy additional books in the prescribed manner if he signs an affidavit form to the effect that there has been such loss.

29. Q. How can the stamps be used in stores?

A. Grocers will accept each stamp at its full face value. One 25 cent orange colored stamp is good for 25 cents worth of any food. One 25 cent blue stamp is good for 25 cents worth of any food that is on the surplus list.

30. Q. Can orange colored stamps be used for food of the kind that is usually eaten at the grocery store?

A. No. Orange stamps cannot be used for food which is usually consumed on the premises of a store.

31. Q. Will a person using blue stamps to buy foods on the surplus list get exactly the same products as people who pay cash?

A. Yes, and at the same price.

32. Q. Can grocers give change to customers using blue or orange colored stamps?

A. No.

33. Q. If food that costs less than 25 cents is bought can stamps be used?

A. Yes, if the grocer will agree to give the customer credit for future delivery of surplus food if a blue stamp is given to him, or credit for future delivery of any food if an orange stamp is given.

34. Q. If food is bought that costs more than 25 cents but less than 50 cents, or more than 50 cents but less than 75 cents and so forth, what can be done?

A. The holder of the stamps can do one of three things: (1) He can pay in cash the amount over 25 cents or 50 cents or 75 cents as the case may be. (2) If the grocer will agree, the holder can get credit for future delivery of surplus food if a blue stamp is given, or the holder can get credit for future delivery of any food if an orange stamp is given, or (3) The holder can increase his purchase of surplus food up to the value of the next blue stamp or his purchase of any food up to the value of the next orange stamp as the case may be.

35. Q. Will surplus commodities be distributed from relief depots to Dayton people as they have been in the past?

A. No, not while the experimental food stamp plan is in operation.

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The food stamp plan will open in Dayton June 1st. Any person desiring further information can obtain it through local welfare officials in the Barrar Building, 5th and Stone Streets.

